

Executive Registry

DD/A Registry

File

Personnel 3

PERS 76-1207

11 MAY 1976

76-2354

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Brent Scowcroft
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

FROM : George Bush
Director

SUBJECT : Nomination of Lt. General Vernon A. Walters,
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence,
for the National Security Medal

1. Attached is a recommendation (Tab A) that the National Security Medal be awarded to Lt. General Vernon A. Walters. This recommendation has been prepared in accordance with Executive Order 10451 which establishes the National Security Medal and the Regulations promulgated by President Truman concerning its award. (Copy attached as Tab B.)

2. General Walters' outstanding career began when he enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1941. He was commissioned and assigned to an Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon the following year. His military assignments included close service to the nation's top military leaders, key attache positions, and staff assistant assignment to Presidents. Because of this unique background and experience he was appointed Deputy Director of Central Intelligence in 1972 and has served in that capacity under four Directors of Central Intelligence. Since that time, veteran intelligence careerists have acclaimed his contribution to the intelligence effort. His knowledge of foreign affairs, keen intellect, and unusual linguistic ability made him a strong asset to the Intelligence Community and it is fitting that his career, a model of dedication, integrity, and service to country, should be capped by this outstanding performance.

3. If the President approves the award, it will be necessary for him to sign the enclosed certificate, which accompanies the medal. It would also be appropriate for the President to present the award if his schedule would permit.

4. I strongly support this recommendation. The award is justly deserved and will appropriately recognize the outstanding contributions that General Walters has made to the Agency, the Intelligence Community, and his country.

/s/ George Bush
George Bush

Attachments a/s

Distribution:

- 0 - 2 - Addressee
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - ER
- 2 - DDA
- 1 - D/Pers
- 1 - DC/BSD
- 1 - Exec Sec/HMAB

(S) F. W. M. [unclear]

Originator: Director of Personnel

OP/BSD/ [redacted] jp (7 May 76)

20 MAY 1976

STATINTL

CITATION

Lt. General Walters' outstanding career began in 1941 when he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He was commissioned the following year and served with distinction in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Italy. After the war he was selected for numerous key assignments at Attache posts, SHAPE Headquarters, NATO, and as staff assistant to Presidents. His successes in these important positions were further recognized when in 1972 he was appointed Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

General Walters brought to his new assignment not only a keen intellect and an invaluable background in foreign affairs, but he also possessed the highest degree of integrity, initiative, and desire for preservation of his nation's security. Serving under four Directors of Central Intelligence, his accomplishments won the acclaim of veteran intelligence careerists. At a time when the Central Intelligence Agency withstood its severest test, General Walters provided strength of character, high moral conviction, and courageous leadership that reflect great credit on himself, the Intelligence Community, and his country.

Proposed Award of the National Security Medal
to Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

1. The National Security Medal was established by President Truman via Executive Order 10431 on 19 January 1953. Under the Executive Order's provisions, the National Security Medal may be awarded by the President (or by such persons as he may designate) for "distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution" in the field of "intelligence relating to the national security." The implementing regulations for the National Security Medal, also approved by President Truman on 19 January 1953, provide that the contribution of recipients of the award should consist of "exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility." It is our desire to nominate Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters for this award. At this writing, he is Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, though he will relinquish that post as soon as his successor, Mr. Enno H. Knoche, is confirmed by the Senate and sworn in. It is our opinion that General Walters' service to his country in the field of intelligence more than meets the criteria established for the National Security Medal. Upon his retirement, General Walters will have completed 35 years of distinguished military service, most of which was spent in Intelligence. His career encompasses unique close service to Presidents, military leaders, high government officials, and as deputy to four Directors of Central Intelligence.

2. General Walters was born in New York City on 3 January 1917. He lived abroad with his parents and attended St. Louis Gonzaga School in Paris, France and Stoneyhurst College in England. His military career began on 2 May 1941 when he enlisted in the U. S. Army. In early 1942 he attended the Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and graduated as 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry on 29 May 1942. After taking part in the assault landing at Safi in Morocco in November 1942, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit, he served in Algeria and Tunisia. As a Captain, he was assigned as Aide to General Mark W. Clark, Commanding General of the Fifth Army, and subsequently became Combat Liaison Officer with the 1st Brazilian Infantry Division, a position which he held until the end of the war. He was then assigned as Assistant Army Attache in Brazil from 1945 to 1948 and during this time was called upon to accompany President Truman, General

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Eisenhower and General Marshall as Aide and interpreter on various trips that they made.

3. Because of his keen intellect, remarkable linguistic ability and unusual competence it was inevitable that General Walters would be singled out for increasing positions of responsibility. In June 1948 he was assigned to Ambassador Averell Harriman as Assistant Military Attache-at-Large with duty station in Paris, and in 1949 he was appointed Army Attache-at-Large. Returning to the United States with Ambassador Harriman in June 1950, he became Military Assistant to the Special Assistant to the President. In addition to his subsequent selection for various key attache positions and assignment at SHAPE Headquarters and NATO, General Walters was a Staff Assistant to President Eisenhower. Because of his unique abilities he accompanied President Eisenhower and President Nixon on numerous foreign visits.

4. General Walters was appointed by President Nixon to be the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence in March 1972. He took the oath of office and assumed the position on 2 May 1972. Within days of assuming office, General Walters was the object of an attempt by individuals in high political office to draw CIA into improper use of its special authorities in a domestic political matter. Although he had only just taken up the job, General Walters' instinctive sense of propriety and high personal integrity enabled him to refuse to allow CIA to be used improperly.

5. In recognition of General Walters' key role in preventing the Agency from being misused, Director Schlesinger awarded General Walters the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the Agency's highest award.

6. The four years of General Walters' tenure as DDCI coincided with the most turbulent years in the Agency's history. Coping with this situation in Washington largely preempted the time of the four Directors under whom General Walters served as Deputy. In this strained situation for the Agency, General Walters' unique talents and abilities enabled him to render brilliant service in the essential task of maintaining contact with the leaders of cooperating foreign intelligence services, authoritatively reassuring them of the Agency's continuing ability to perform the essential functions of this country's foreign intelligence service, and to maintain the willingness of the foreign services to continue their vital cooperation with the United States.

7. To speak of General Walters' unique abilities in dealing with senior foreign officials fails to do adequate justice to the very special talents of this man. He has not only the exceptional ability to speak directly with great fluency with most senior officials among friendly nations,

but also has the masterful warmth and style necessary to deal effectively with leaders from various cultures in creating

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quickly a relaxed, constructive and friendly atmosphere. He is by practice and unparalleled experience a highly skilled diplomat supported by an exceptional knowledge of history and international affairs. By his tireless application of his special talents at home and abroad, General Walters has made an absolutely unique and invaluable contribution to the foreign intelligence mission of the United States. These special talents have also caused General Walters to be used by various national administrators for extremely sensitive diplomatic missions involving heavy responsibility.

8. If the United States has produced a complete professional foreign intelligence officer in the broadest sense of the term, with the widest possible range of experiences and responsibilities, surely General Walters' name must come to mind.

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Bul 2

3

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10431

NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. There is hereby established a medal to be known as the National Security Medal with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances. The medal and its appurtenances shall be of appropriate design, approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

2. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person, without regard to nationality, including members of the armed forces of the United States, for distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution on or after July 26, 1947, in the field of intelligence relating to the national security.

3. The decoration established by this order shall be awarded by the President of the United States or, under regulations approved by him, by such person or persons as he may designate.

4. No more than one National Security Medal shall be awarded to any one person, but for subsequent services justifying an award, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the Medal.

5. Members of the armed forces of the United States who are awarded the decoration established by this order are authorized to wear the medal and the ribbon symbolic of the award, as may be authorized by uniform regulations approved by the Secretary of Defense.

6. The decoration established by this order may be awarded posthumously.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 19, 1953.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL

Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Executive Order 10431, the following regulations are hereby issued to govern the award of the National Security Medal:

1. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person without regard to nationality, including a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who, on or after 23 July 1947, has made an outstanding contribution to the National Intelligence effort. This contribution may consist of either exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility or of an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.

2. The National Security Medal with accompanying ribbon and appurtenances, shall be of appropriate design to be approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

3. The National Security Medal shall be awarded only by the President or his designee for that purpose.

4. Recommendations may be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council by any individual having personal knowledge of the facts of the exceptionally meritorious conduct or act of valor of the candidate in the performance of outstanding services, either as an eyewitness or from the testimony of others who have personal knowledge or were eyewitnesses. Any recommendations shall be accompanied by complete documentation, including where necessary, certificates, affidavits or sworn transcripts of testimony. Each recommendation for an award shall show the exact status, at the time of the rendition of the service on which the recommendation is based, with respect to citizenship, employment, and all other material factors, of the person who is being recommended for the National Security Medal.

5. Each recommendation shall contain a draft of an appropriate citation to accompany the award of the National Security Medal.

Approved:

HARRY S. TRUMAN
January 19, 1953.

TAGO 2796B

76-7810/3

PLS 76-1207

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Assistant to the President for
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3. If the President approves the award, it will be necessary for him to sign the enclosed certificate, which accompanies the medal. It would also be appropriate for the President to present the award if his schedule would permit.

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- 1 - DC/BSO
- 1 - Exec Sec/HMAB

Originator: (Signed) F. W. M. Janney
Director of Personnel

STATINTL OP/BSO/1 [REDACTED]:jp (7 May 76)

10 MAY 1976

CITATION

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January 19, 1953.

TAGO 2795B